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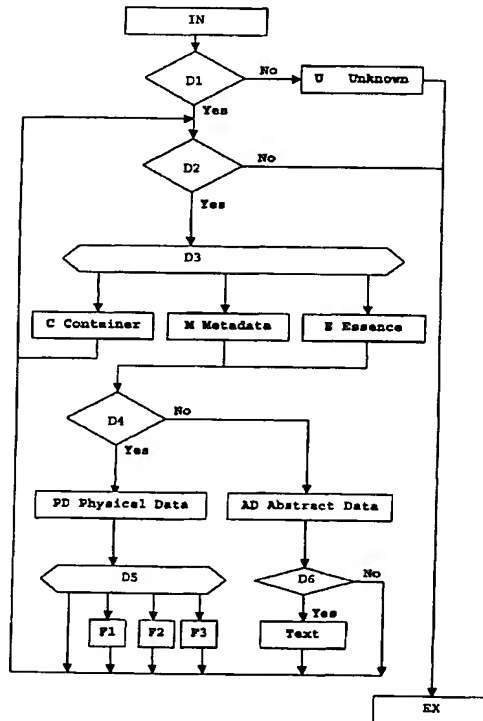
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF DATA TYPES FOR DATA TYPE DEPENDENT PROCESSING

(57) Abstract: A method for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing has two orthogonal classification systems defined, and determines for incoming data items a data type according to the first classification system and another data type according to the second classification system. The first classification system comprises the data types Essence (E), Metadata (M) and Container (C). The second classification system comprises the data types Physical Data (PD) and Abstract Data (AD). A default data type may be defined for data items not being uniquely classifiable. Advantageously, the inventive method can be used when different classes of data items require different methods for processing, e.g. content searching.

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